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Competing in the 21st Century: Demands
For Environmental Quality

Nancy Bryson

COMPETING IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

Demands for Environmental Quality

**Nancy Bryson
General Counsel, USDA**





**Helping Agriculture Comply With
Environmental Requirements**

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ISSUES

Water

Air

Endangered Species

Ecosystem/Watershed

Reducing Air Pollution and Improving Productivity: The Dairy Industry Example

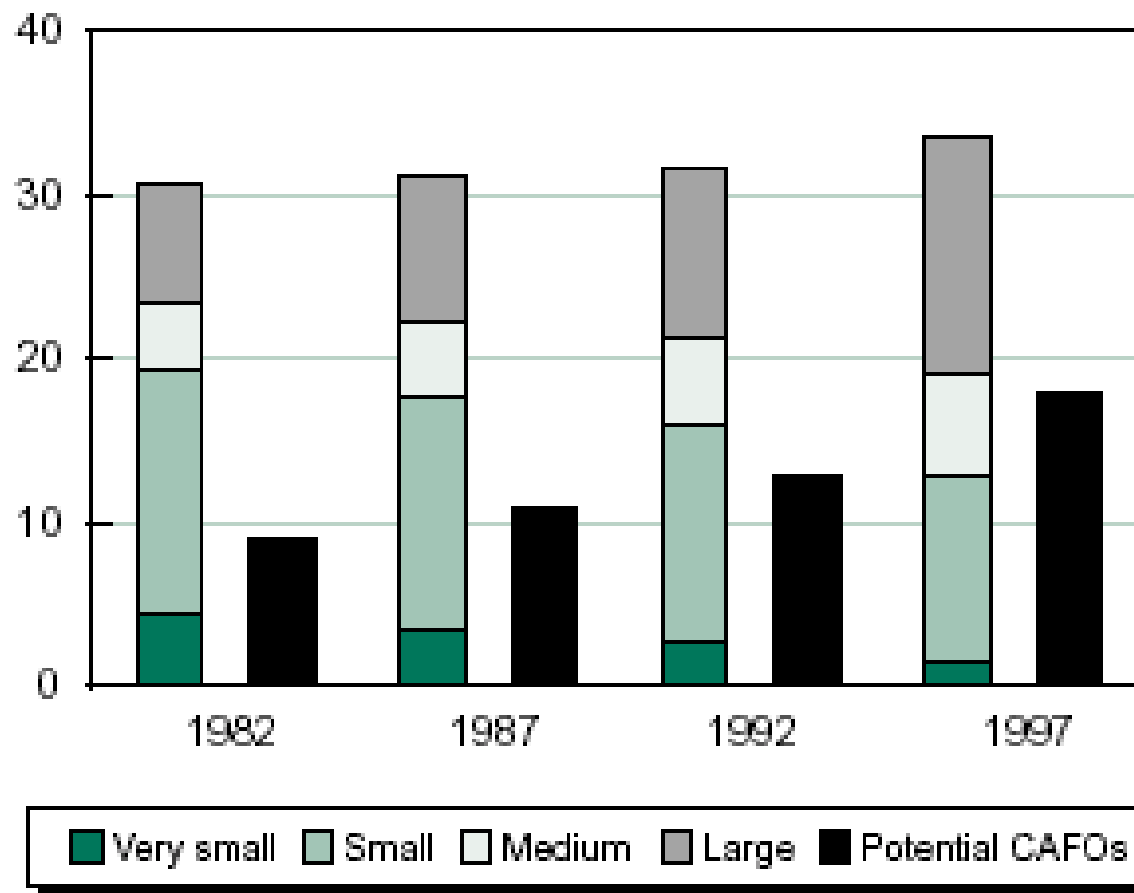
	1960	1990
Milk/cow/yr	3195 kg	7000 kg
CH4/cow/yr	76.1 kg	114.6 kg
CH4/Kg milk	24 gms	17 gms
Dairy Cows	17.5 million	10.1 million
Total milk	55.9 mil. Tons	65.6 mil. Tons
Total CH4	1.33Tg	1.16 Tg

10 million tons more milk and 170,000 tons less methane than 30 years ago

Consolidation

Confined animal units, by size class, 1982-97

Mil. AU



TOOLBOX

1. Environmental Law

- Old Laws
- Litigation as a Bellwether
- Need to Quantify
Agricultural Benefits

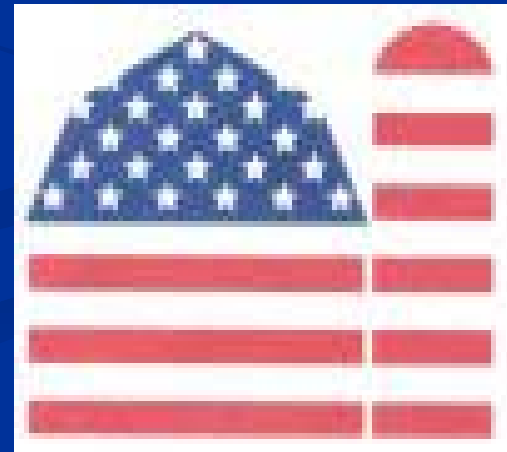
TOOLBOX

2. Farm Bill Conservation Programs Economic Incentive

- Land Retirement (CRP, WRP)
- Working Land (EQIP, CSP, WHIP)

Economic Disincentive

- Swampbuster



TOOLBOX

3. Best Management Practices
4. Private Sector Trading Programs
(Air, Water, Carbon Sequestration)
 - Quantifiable
 - Permanent
 - Surplus
 - Enforceable
 - Original amounts in inventory

CHALLENGES

Outdistancing Litigation

Innovation/Incentives

Measuring Progress

Sustainability

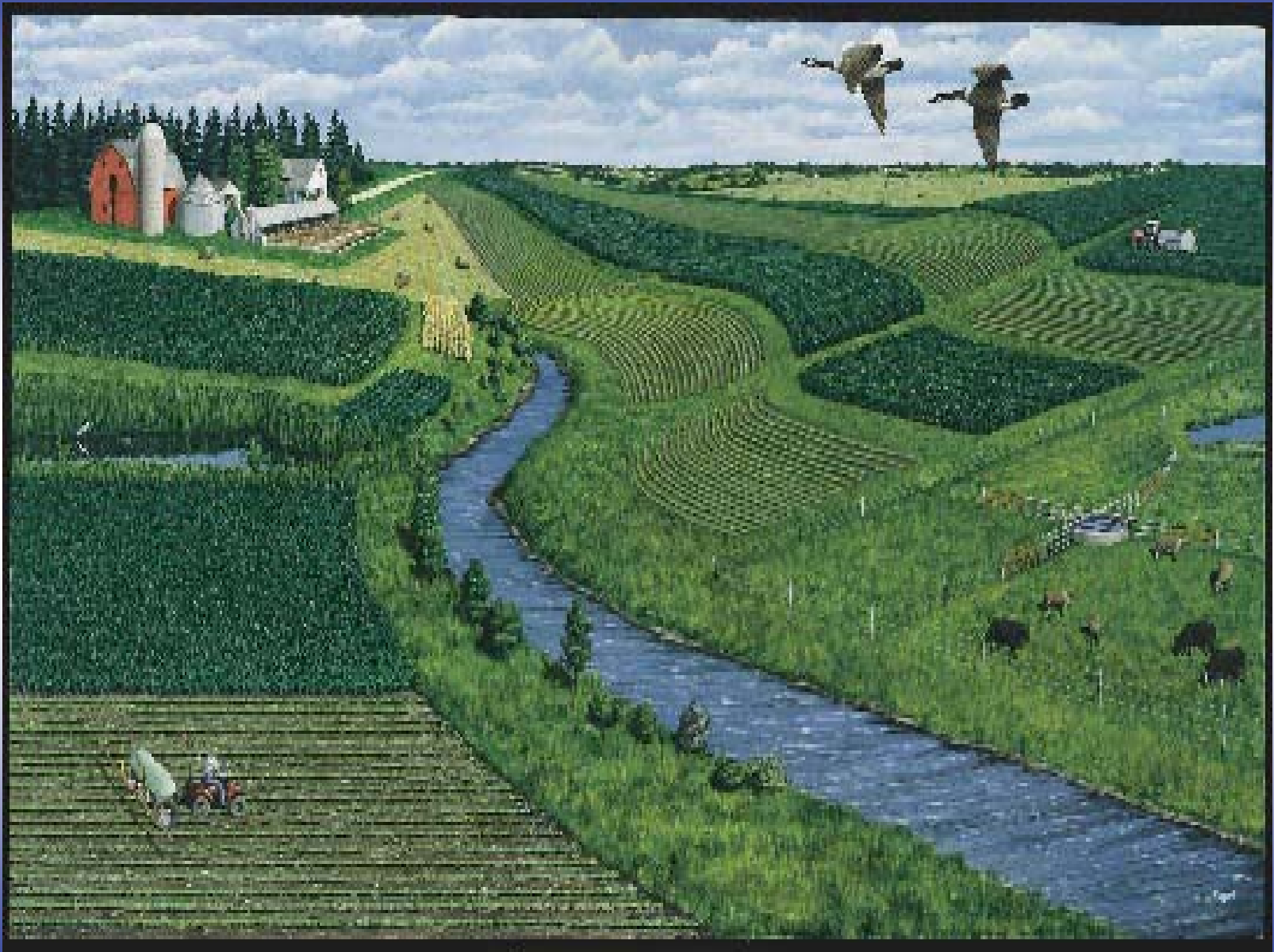


Photo courtesy of USDA NRCS